

Draft Westmeath County **Development Plan** **2021 - 2027**

AA Screening
Determination

**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination under:
The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

for:

**Proposed Material Alterations to the
Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made by Westmeath County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of AA.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

The Alterations are considered in the accompanying Screening for AA report. The Screening exercise examines whether there is potential for any effects on the integrity of European sites to arise as a result of the Alterations, within the context of the existing Draft Plan provisions. If there was potential for effects and mitigation was required to be integrated into the Proposed Material Alterations by way of modification, then Stage 2 AA would be required.

The AA Screening Report, concludes that the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan are not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the Proposed Material Alterations will not give rise to any significant effects on designated European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, Stage 2 AA is not required for the Proposed Material Alterations.

This determination has been informed by: the Proposed Material Alterations; the AA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations; the Draft Plan; and the AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan.

The Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

Signed :
Signatory
Approved Officer



¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.